

TARZAN OF THE APES

By EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

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He was trying to tell the stupid white man to plunge his poisoned arrows into Sabor's back and sides, and to reach the savage heart with the long, thin hunting knife that hung at Tarzan's hip, but the man would not understand, and Tarzan did not dare release his hold to do the things himself. He knew that the puny white man never could hold mighty Sabor alone for an instant.

Slowly the door was emerging from the window. At last his shoulders were out.

And then Clayton saw a thing done which not even the eternal heavens had ever seen before. Tarzan, racking his brain for some means to rope single handed with the infuriated beast, had suddenly recalled his little white Terkoz, and as the great shoulders came clear of the window, so that the tiger hung upon the sill only by his fore paws, Tarzan suddenly released his hold upon the brute.

With incredible swiftness he launched himself full upon Sabor's back, his strong young arms seeking and gaining a fullelson upon the beast, as he had learned it that other day during his bloody victory over Terkoz.

With a shriek the tiger turned completely over upon his back, falling full upon his enemy. The black haired giant only closed tighter his hold.

Flailing and tearing at earth and air, Sabor rolled and threw himself this way and that in an effort to dislodge his antagonist. Always tighter and tighter drew the iron bands that were tearing his head lower and lower upon his white breast.

Higher and higher crept the steel forearms of the ape man about the neck of Sabor's neck. Worker and weaker became the tiger's efforts.

At last Clayton saw the immense muscles of Tarzan's shoulders and his legs tear into corded knots. There was a long sustained and supreme effort on the ape man's part—and the vertebrae of Sabor's neck parted with a sharp snap.

In an instant Tarzan was upon his feet, and for the second time that day Clayton heard the bull ape's savage roar of victory, and then he heard Jane Porter's agonized cry.

"Ceil—Mr. Clayton! Oh, what is it? What is it?"

Running quickly to the cabin door, Clayton called out that all was right and bade her open. As quickly as she could she raised the great bar and fairly dragged Clayton within.

"What was that awful noise?" she whispered, shrinking close to him. "It was the cry of the kill from the throat of the man who has just saved your life, Miss Porter. Wait, I will fetch him that you may thank him."

The frightened girl would not be left alone, so she accompanied Clayton to the side of the cabin where lay the dead body of the tiger.

Tarzan of the apes was gone. Clayton called several times, but there was no reply, and so the two returned to the greater safety of the interior.

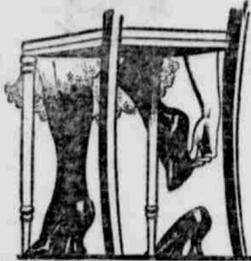
"What a frightful sound!" cried Jane Porter. "Don't tell me that a human being made it."

"But it did, Miss Porter," replied Clayton.

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Clayton, "or at least if not a human throat that of a forest god."

And he told her of his experiences with this creature—of how twice the wild man had saved his life, of his wondrous strength and agility and bravery, of the brown skin and the handsome face.

"I cannot make it out at all," he concluded. "At first I thought he might be Tarzan of the apes. But he neither speaks nor understands English, so that theory is untenable."

"Well, whatever he may be," cried the girl, "we owe him our lives. May heaven bless him and keep him in safety in his jungle."

"Amen," said Clayton fervently.

"Eh? de good Lawd's sake, ain't Ah daid?"

The two turned to see Esmeralda sitting upright upon the floor, her great eyes rolling from side to side, as though she could not believe their testimony as to her whereabouts.

CHAPTER XI.

"Most Remarkable."

SEVERAL miles south of the cabin, upon a strip of sandy beach, stood two old men arguing.

Before them stretched the broad Atlantic, at their backs the dark continent; close around them loomed the impenetrable blackness of the jungle.

Savage boasts roared and growled. Noises, hideous and weird, assailed their ears. They had wandered miles in search of their camp, but always in the wrong direction. They were hopelessly lost.

Scanned T. Philander was speaking. "But, my dear professor," he was saying, "I still maintain that but for the victories of Ferdinand and Isabella over the fifteenth century Moors in Spain the world would be today a thousand years in advance of where we now find ourselves. But, bless me, professor, there seems to be some one approaching."

Professor Archimedes Q. Porter turned to the jungle in the direction indicated by the nearsighted Mr. Philander.

"Tut, tut, Mr. Philander!" he chided. "How often must I urge you to seek after absolute concentration of your

mental faculties? And now I find you guilty of a most flagrant breach of courtesy in interrupting my discourse to call attention to a mere quadruped of the genus feline. As I was saying, Mr.—"

"Heavens, professor, a lion!" cried Mr. Philander, straining his weak eyes toward the dim figure outlined against the dark tropical underbrush.

"Yes, yes, Mr. Philander, if you insist upon employing slang in your discourse, a 'lion.' But, as I was saying—"

"Bless me, professor," again interrupted Mr. Philander, "permit me to suggest that we postpone discussion of Moors until we may attain the enchanting view of your feline quadruped which distance proverbially is credited with lending."

(To be Continued.)

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